



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Serbia
Title:	New strategy on Gender Equality
Date:	28 August 2016
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Strategy on Gender Equality (2016-2020)
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Other

Content

Policy development: On January 14 2016, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the new National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016-2020, as well as an Action plan for its implementation for the period 2016-2018. The Strategy was adopted based on the evaluation of the previous Action Plan, which was adopted in October 2015. The evaluation indicated that certain progress in achieving gender equality has been made in different areas, especially in the improvement of legislative framework of equal participation of women and men in political life, anti-discrimination, employment, establishment of institutional mechanisms of gender equality, improvement of gender sensitive statistics, and increase in visibility of domestic violence towards women.

However, in many key areas the desired effects have not been achieved: the participation of women in public authorities outside of the legislature is still very low, their economic status is still poor, violence against women, including femicide, is widespread, and media content is still characterized by sexism and misogyny. Measures in the area of employment, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, as well as measures for the advancement of multiple discriminated groups, have also yielded poor results. Other indicated problems are fragmented application of the previous Action Plan, with limited horizontal and vertical reach. A gender perspective was not included in all relevant strategies, while resources were not enough for an effective application of operational activities.

Review of the situation on gender equality in Chapter 1 of the Strategy was made relying on different sources: statistical data of the Republic Institute for Statistics, autonomous and local bodies and institutions, annual reports of independent bodies (the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and the Ombudsman), national reports on social inclusion and poverty reduction, and the results of relevant researches and studies conducted by experts, women's and other associations. In addition, the review of the situation in relation to gender equality was based on an assessment of the state of gender equality given in the European Commission's screening for Serbia, Chapter 23 - Judiciary and fundamental rights (EU MD 45/14 of 15 May 2014), the European Commission's progress report on Serbia (SVD (2014) 302) and the concluding

observations of the Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW) in conjunction with the second and third periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW / C / SRB / 2-3).

The Strategy contains relevant international and domestic legal standards on gender equality, as well as the strategic framework. It provides information on the current state of gender equality in different areas of life: partner and family relations, participation in public and political life, gender equality in economy (labour market, entrepreneurship, as well as in agriculture and rural areas), gender equality in the formal system of education and upbringing, violence against women, gender equality in the media, the introduction of gender equality in public policies and programs, institutional mechanisms of gender equality, multiple discrimination and vulnerable groups.

The Strategy includes the SWOT analyses, which key strengths and weaknesses are addressed by this Strategy. The three main aims of this Strategy are as follows:

- to change the gender patterns and improve the culture of gender equality;
- to increase equality between women and men applying the policies and measures of equal opportunities; and
- systematic introduction of gender perspective in the adoption, implementation and monitoring of public policies.

Internet link source: <http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/lat/dokumenti/nacionalna-strategija-za-rodnu-ravnopravnost-za-period-od-2016-do-2020-godine-sa-akcionim>